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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/15 of 3 November 2000 and outlines measures taken to implement the resolution. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). In addition to regular liaison activities between the Department and the OAS secretariat, many parts of the United Nations system collaborate extensively and regularly exchange information with OAS and its constituent parts. The report contains details on some of these linkages.

* A/57/150.

** The present report was delayed by late contributions from some agencies and the adaptation of lengthy submissions.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/15 of 3 November 2000 and outlines the measures taken to implement the resolution.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/15

A. Joint activities

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations and the Organization of American States continued to collaborate on the international community's response to the ongoing crisis in Haiti. The United Nations International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH), which had built on the work of the joint United Nations/Organization of American States International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), completed its mandate in March 2001. Both organizations continued to monitor developments in Haiti and to encourage all parties and civil society actors to find common ground which would allow the country to move forward. The OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti began operations in mid-2002, building in particular on the work of the United Nations and OAS on issues related to human rights and the rule of law. The United Nations, through the United Nations Development Programme, participates in meetings of the Group of Friends formed to support OAS mediation efforts in Haiti.

3. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) continued to collaborate with OAS and its thematic projects in the country. In April 2002, MINUGUA briefed the OAS Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. The Mission's State Reform and Conflict Resolution Unit is working with the OAS conflict resolution project entitled "Culture of Dialogue: Development of Resources for Peacebuilding in Guatemala" (PROPAZ), in supporting the Guatemalan Presidential Unit for Conflict Resolution. MINUGUA is also involved in a multilateral effort, facilitated by PROPAZ, to strengthen the office of the Human Rights Counsel.

4. In January 2002, MINUGUA staff briefed OAS envoys exploring possibilities for a national dialogue on dialogue efforts during the past year. In follow-up and pursuant to a request emerging from the Consultative Group meeting on Guatemala held in February 2002, both UNDP and the OAS are involved in laying the groundwork for the proposed national dialogue. OAS Secretary-General, César Gaviria, was also briefed during his visit to the country in March 2001.

5. During the reporting period, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs collaborated with and exchanged information with the OAS Unit for the Promotion of Democracy on electoral processes in Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru. In Peru, the United Nations provided extensive technical assistance during that country's 2001 presidential elections while, in keeping with a division of labour used successfully throughout the region, OAS organized electoral observation. The United Nations coordinated all international assistance to Peru's electoral authority.

B. Consultations and exchange of information

6. The Department of Political Affairs continues to be the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In that capacity, the Department coordinates the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/15, including the preparation of the present report.

7. The United Nations was represented at the two regular sessions of the General Assembly of OAS held in San José, Costa Rica in June 2001 and in Bridgetown, Barbados in June 2002. At each meeting, the OAS membership adopted a resolution requesting the OAS Secretary-General to continue to strengthen activities of cooperation between the two organizations.

8. As focal point for cooperation with OAS, the Department of Political Affairs maintains regular and extensive contact and consultation with the offices of the OAS Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General. These exchanges cover, in particular, countries and issues of mutual concern, such as border disputes in Central America and the political situation in Haiti and in Peru. The Department attended special meetings of the OAS Permanent Council and General Assembly at OAS headquarters in the

aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001 and the upheaval in Venezuela in April 2002.

9. From 30 April to 2 May 2002, a working-level meeting was held in follow-up to the fourth high-level meeting between the Secretary-General and heads of regional organizations on cooperation for peace-building. On that occasion, officials from a range of United Nations agencies, programmes and departments had the opportunity to meet with OAS counterparts to discuss implementation of the 13 modalities of cooperation in the field of conflict prevention, which were developed at the third high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations held in July 1998.

10. Meeting bilaterally, the United Nations and OAS had a rich exchange on countries of mutual concern, including Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti and Venezuela, as well as joint activities on elections and staff training. The exchange on Guatemala was particularly useful, in the light of the planned transition of MINUGUA. Participants identified areas for cooperation and the transfer of tasks to OAS projects already under way, involving, inter alia, working with political parties and conflict resolution.

C. Information received from the United Nations system

1. United Nations Secretariat

Department for Disarmament Affairs

11. The Department for Disarmament Affairs held a number of meetings with OAS, including one which reviewed joint work against the illicit trafficking of firearms, identified a list of future training activities, agreed to cooperate on databases and to coordinate the promotion and implementation of the international instruments dealing with the illicit trafficking of small arms. At that meeting, the Department's Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima presented the programme of work of the Regional Clearinghouse to the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials and proposed a memorandum of understanding to support the implementation of the Convention.

12. The Lima Regional Centre participated in several OAS events, including an August 2001 seminar on the application of the model regulations of the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) for the control of the international movement of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. Seminar participants noted, inter alia, that unlicensed firearms and corruption were key regional problems, and that better control of firearms would help investigators to control drug trafficking, money laundering and other criminal activities.

13. With CICAD, the Lima Regional Centre conducted a two-year series of regional awareness-building seminars, which have exposed close to 140 police officers and customs officials to the provisions of the inter-American firearms convention and the corresponding articles of the model regulations related to its implementation. The last seminar of the series, held in Brasilia in February 2002, introduced the Convention, trained South American authorities responsible for firearms control in the application of the OAS/CICAD model regulations and promoted their implementation. The seminar also aimed to strengthen measures to prevent the illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition.

14. On 16 and 17 May 2002, the Lima Regional Centre and CICAD organized a workshop on the implementation of the project entitled "Training the Trainers Investigative Techniques" on commercial trade of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and ammunition. The coordinating committee for the project agreed on a division of labour to develop the training manual, syllabus and database management tools.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

15. The Organization of American States is an active partner of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, promoting in particular the views of Latin America and the Caribbean prone to natural and other related hazards. The OAS Inter-American Committee for Natural Disaster Reduction represents OAS on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (see also A/57/190). OAS and the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy maintain close collaboration in the area of vulnerability reduction, with a view to facilitating long-term policies for sustainable development. This collaboration involves a number of other relevant

regional and international partners, including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO. In this context, the secretariat for the Strategy supported OAS during the organization and holding of the Hemispheric Conference on Risk Reduction, which was convened in Costa Rica in December 2001, in response to a recommendation of the third Summit of the Americas held in April 2001. The secretariat's regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean contributed a background document on risk reduction trends in the Americas, which was conducive to discussions and decisions taken at the Conference.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

16. With the support of the Government of Italy, through its Trust Fund for Human Resources and Capacity-Building, and in collaboration with the Italian Diplomatic Institute, the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has given support to a number of OAS member States in building capacity in the area of external trade.

17. Since trade plays an increasingly important part in ensuring economic growth, trade agreements are of crucial importance in furthering the entire development process, especially in this era in which developing countries have to cope with the challenges caused by globalization. Conscious of the role played by diplomats in negotiating trade agreements in international forums, the Department seeks to provide mid-level diplomats from developing countries with the skills necessary to secure agreements beneficial to their countries. Workshops were held in Italy in May 2001 for 27 participants from Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Department of Public Information

18. As part of its Model United Nations programme held throughout Mexico, the United Nations information centre in Mexico City developed a joint initiative with the OAS country office whereby participants learned how the regional groups participate in the work of the United Nations and were acquainted with OAS positions on issues on the United Nations agenda. As part of that initiative, several Model United Nations sessions have also simulated OAS meetings giving consideration to United Nations issues.

19. United Nations Radio continued to cover activities and events pertaining to the OAS in its daily live broadcasts and weekly current affairs magazines in the official and non-official languages. Some of the issues covered were: the United Nations Secretary-General's support for the efforts of OAS in trying to bring peace and stability in Haiti; OAS and the electoral crisis in Haiti; the food situation in Central America; the Latin American response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States of America and support for the fight against terrorism; Latin American economies in recession; diminishing direct foreign investment in Latin America; and a new agreement seeking to follow up the OAS Convention on Corruption. Magazine programmes were produced in Dutch, French-Creole and Spanish on the following topics: the third Summit of the Americas; Latin American problems; Latin American countries condemnation of terrorism; improving education in Latin America; equal opportunities for women discussed at the Governors' Assembly of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); and OAS member States signing of an agreement against corruption.

20. In March 2001, the Department provided a radio officer to cover the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of IDB held in Chile. The ensuing reports, including interviews with experts from OAS member States on such issues as women, democracy for development and the economic situation in Latin America, were incorporated into the daily live broadcasts. All Spanish programmes produced by United Nations Radio in New York continued to be broadcast on a daily and weekly basis by OAS headquarters.

21. The quarterly *United Nations Chronicle* (March-May 2001) published two articles entitled "Participatory urban governance: the experience of Santo Andre", by the late Mayor Celso Daniel of Santo Andre, Brazil; and "Poor, or excluded? Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean", by Yves Cabannes, on the World Assembly of Urban Dwellers.

2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

22. During the period under review, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and OAS have strengthened their collaboration in a number of areas within the framework of the Summits of the Americas process (held in Miami, 1994; Santiago, 1998 and Québec City, 2001).

23. On 13 June 2001, ECLAC, OAS, PAHO/WHO and IDB signed a letter of understanding concerning follow-up and implementation of successive Summit of the Americas Plans of Action. In this context, the institutions have met regularly, shared information and planned joint activities.

24. Collaboration is particularly close in the context of the OAS/IDB/ECLAC Tripartite Committee established to support the process building towards creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Through the activities of the Tripartite Committee, the three institutions coordinate the provision of technical support to the Trade Negotiations Committee of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the nine negotiating groups and its four committees.

25. ECLAC has continued to collaborate with the Unit for Sustainable Development and Environment of OAS. In this regard ECLAC regularly participates in the quarterly meetings of the inter-agency task force on the follow-up to the Summit of the Americas held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. During 2001, ECLAC provided regular updates on the regional preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

26. ECLAC has also collaborated with the Inter-American Commission of Women of OAS, and participated in the first and second regular sessions of the 2000-2002 Executive Committee of the Commission. The discussions involved potential areas of collaboration, support to Summit of the Americas mandates in relation to gender issues and the promotion of the rights of women and of gender equity.

27. In addition, ECLAC participated in two meetings on Best Practices in Municipal Development and shared information on experiences in the region. The meetings were organized by the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development of OAS in April and November of 2001. Participating organizations included the World Bank, IDB, ECLAC and the Urban Institute, among others.

3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

28. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) collaborates with OAS in identifying and analysing the development implications of issues related to international investment agreements. The UNCTAD post-Doha mandate on trade and investment implies further research and capacity-building in this area, which should lead to increased cooperation between the two organizations.

29. In the areas of investment, technology and enterprise development, UNCTAD has provided assistance to OAS member States by preparing investment policy reviews for Ecuador and Peru and initiating follow-up activities on the resulting recommendations. These reviews critically examine investment policies and their relevance and effectiveness in attracting foreign direct investment and ensuring that economic benefits are maximized. UNCTAD has continued to provide technical assistance to Bolivia on the implementation of its national investment promotion strategy. It worked with the secretariat of the Andean Community in designing a regional investment promotion strategy and assisted Brazil in strengthening its investment promotion network. UNCTAD organized a regional workshop, hosted by Jamaica, on investor targeting for the Caribbean countries.

30. UNCTAD also provides assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises and women entrepreneurs through its enterprise development programme in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. UNCTAD promoted best practices in corporate governance, accounting and reporting particularly in Argentina, Brazil and Mexico and assisted with competitive insurance markets in Anguilla, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

31. UNCTAD has collaborated with OAS in organizing training for port officials on strategic port pricing as a means to promote port investments and improve the competitive position of the region's ports.

32. UNCTAD furthermore collaborates with OAS in implementing the UNCTAD computerized customs management system in OAS member States. The system is part of UNCTAD technical assistance activities in trade and transport efficiency and deals specifically with customs modernization and reform. It handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit and suspense procedures, and generates timely and reliable trade data for analytical and statistical purposes.

33. UNCTAD is collaborating with OAS member States in the field of debt management through its Debt Management and Financial Analysis System programme. The primary objective of the programme is to assist countries in improving their capacity for effective debt management, thus improving public financial management and planning. UNCTAD has implemented its Debt Management and Financial Analysis System programme in ministries of finance and/or central banks in 14 OAS member States. Most OAS countries have implemented or are implementing links between the System and their financial administration systems encompassing budget, accounting and treasury, thus further obtaining efficiency gains in the field of public financial management.

4. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

34. Cooperation between the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the OAS continued to develop in 2001 and 2002. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) routinely attend each other's significant political and technical meetings and consult frequently on drug control developments in the Americas and on priority technical cooperation needs.

35. The completion in 2001 by OAS-CICAD of a Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism to evaluate drug control efforts, results and needs in OAS member States proved to be the single most important multilateral drug control development in the region.

36. UNDCP participated as an observer in the early development of the Mechanism, and is poised to remain a principal partner in the implementation of recommendations made in its yearly reports. Specifically, such reports serve as a principal programming framework when UNDCP considers new projects in OAS member States. UNDCP projects to strengthen the collection and analysis of data on illicit crop cultivation and drug abuse are especially important to the effective implementation of recommendations of the Mechanism in individual countries. Equally important, UNDCP and OAS-CICAD routinely consult each other for the purpose of harmonizing international data collection systems, as well as relevant indicators to measure progress. Consultations are also under way to find practical ways to streamline member States' reporting requirements to both organizations.

37. At the operational level, OAS-CICAD and UNDCP continued to fund and execute jointly a US$ 1 million project to consolidate the Regional Centre for Legal Development and Cooperation in Central America. Further, the organizations joined forces to carry out several training programmes in the field of chemical precursor control in the Caribbean, and to plan new regional programmes in the field of demand reduction.

38. The Centre for International Crime Prevention has cooperated with individual OAS member States on activities to promote signing and ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols. Such high-level seminars and consultations with the regional and subregional groups of OAS member States were held in 2001 and 2002 in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

39. The Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas held in March 2002 in Trinidad and Tobago under the auspices of OAS recommended the signing and ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. The Meeting also noted that the strengthening of communication with the United Nations on the topic of legislative measures to ensure the seizure of assets and the return of funds obtained illegally as a result of corruption, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, should be taken into account while formulating the proposed plan of action.

40. At the United Nations Symposium on "Combating international terrorism: the contribution of the United Nations" held in Vienna in June 2002, a representative of OAS spoke about strengthening the

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. Cooperation in this regard is under way.

5. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

41. The plight of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has always been a matter of concern shared with OAS, with repeated calls by the various organs of the inter-American system for protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in the western hemisphere.

42. Resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR were adopted at the thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the OAS annual General Assembly in 2001 and 2002, respectively. In resolution AG/Res. 1832 (XXXI-O/01) of 2001, the OAS General Assembly took note of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and urged active participation in the UNHCR Global Consultations on International Protection aimed at reaffirming the central importance of the universal refugee instruments. In the resolution, the OAS Assembly also acknowledged the complementary nature of international refugee law and international human rights law. In 2002, the OAS General Assembly, in its resolution AG/Res. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), reiterated its appeal to States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and urged those States that were already parties to fully and effectively implement their obligations under those instruments by, inter alia, adopting and implementing national refugee legislation and procedures for the determination of refugee status and the treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees. In the 2002 resolution, the OAS Assembly also recognized the multilateral nature of UNHCR and its mandate and called for increased support by member States and the organs of the inter-American system to the Office's work of providing protection to refugees, promoting durable solutions and supervising the application of the relevant international refugee instruments.

43. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights represented OAS at a regional meeting of experts co-sponsored by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The experts reviewed the supervisory responsibility of UNHCR in the light of the experience of the inter-American human rights organs. Participants recommended that UNHCR reinforce its working relationship with the human rights organs of the inter-American system and identify practical means to achieve complementarity between the inter-American system of human rights and international refugee law.

44. Under an agreement signed by UNHCR and IACHR in June 2001, the organizations are committed to joint efforts in areas related to the promotion and dissemination of human rights and refugee law. They include training Governments, non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society, joint research and publication, information sharing, technical advice on the adoption or revision of migration policies and on national refugee enactment mechanisms, as well as the promotion of inter-institutional cooperation in the Americas.

45. Together with similar arrangements made with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights in 1998 and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 2000, this agreement constitutes a new opportunity to include refugee issues on the inter-American agenda, particularly through "in loco" visits, rapporteurships, country and thematic reports and the consideration of urgent cases of forced displacement. UNHCR provided briefings to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights during visits of its representatives to Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

46. Four publications on human rights and refugee issues were published in 2001 and 2002 with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The first publication includes articles on new protection needs at the beginning of the twenty-first century as well as the contents of decisions adopted by the Inter-American Court relevant to refugee protection. The second publication commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention and the twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. Records of the second and third "Encounters of Human Mobility", a forum for discussion on forced migration with civil society organizations from North and Central America and Panama, were published at the beginning of 2001.

47. UNHCR held two human rights workshops for its staff in the Americas, incorporating the mechanisms of the inter-American system for the protection of

refugees. One covered Latin American countries, the other concentrated on North America and the Caribbean. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights also participated in UNHCR training with Caribbean Governments and civil society organizations in Guatemala and the United States of America, placing emphasis on the various supervisory mechanisms that can be employed to strengthen international refugee protection.

48. At the request of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, UNHCR reported on the implementation of the OAS General Assembly resolution on the protection of refugees adopted in 2001, in preparation for this item at the 2002 General Assembly. Considerable interest in the development of asylum capacity in the Americas was expressed by a number of committee members, and this information exchange is expected to become an annual event.

6. World Food Programme

49. OAS and the World Food Programme (WFP) maintain regular contacts throughout the region. Joint efforts took place in the housing sector as part of the post-hurricane Mitch activities in Central America. Partnerships in development projects have taken place and joint collaboration in other areas has been explored. WFP staff has participated in OAS electoral observer missions.

50. At the country office level, discussions have included the following themes. In Ecuador, OAS and WFP have discussed the preparation of a funding proposal for a new regional initiative called "*cascos blancos*" (white helmets) that would help strengthen the local emergency response capacity. Likewise in Ecuador, a discussion is taking place regarding joint support for the "*veedurias sociales*" initiative, which would eventually lead to citizens participating in ensuring accountability for food aid and other development projects.

51. In Honduras, discussions have taken place on possible cooperation in the housing sector; supporting the decentralization process by assisting the municipalities; and initiating a solar energy project and a teacher-training initiative linked to participating Global School-Feeding Initiative schools in that country.

7. United Nations Human Settlements Programme

52. OAS supports implementation of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure coordinated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). OAS and UN-Habitat are also presently looking for ways to link their web sites, in order to support activities regarding the improvement of property information systems.

8. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

53. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) attaches great importance to cooperation with OAS. Since the adoption of the regional approach of OHCHR, the Latin America team has been focusing on more integration of the regional and subregional dimensions in its activities. A key step in the process of the OHCHR regional strategy for Latin America has been the adoption of the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights through a workshop in the region, held in Quito in late 1999. Another important step in the development of this strategy has been the appointment of a Regional Representative based at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. The Regional Representative's mandate is to enhance cooperation with the regional institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also very important in this process was the meeting of experts on the regional strategy of OHCHR held in Geneva in December 2001. The experts strongly recommended that OHCHR strengthen its cooperation with OAS and other regional institutions. In particular, participants emphasized the need for greater collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

54. *OHCHR and IACHR Inter-secretariat cooperation.* The OHCHR Regional Representative, Mr. Roberto Garretón, with the support of the Chief of the OHCHR Support and Services Branch, visited IACHR in February 2002. On that occasion, the OHCHR Regional Representative met with officers of the IACHR secretariat to discuss issues of mutual interest.

55. In this regard, an OHCHR mission to OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. was carried out from 8 to 12 July 2002, with the objective of identifying concrete areas for effective cooperation between the

OHCHR and IACHR secretariats, to agree on joint activities in the Americas and on ways to improve coordination between regional and United Nations human rights mechanisms.

56. *Strengthening human rights mechanisms.* In 2001, the Executive Secretary of IACHR visited OHCHR in his capacity as then OAS Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression have visited the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in order to exchange information and to harmonize mechanisms and methods of work.

57. *Participation in activities.* Several OAS institutions, such as the Institute on Children and the Inter-American Commission on Women have participated in activities and programmes being developed by OHCHR in the region.

9. International Labour Organization

58. During the period under review the International Labour Organization (ILO) collaborated with OAS mainly through backstopping of the OAS Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour. ILO took part in the eleventh Conference, submitting several studies and cooperating with its advisory committee. A methodology developed to provide close support to the activities of the various organs of the Inter-American Conference of Labour Ministers, held in Ottawa in 2001, prompted discussion of the priority issues of the conference concerning economic integration and its labour dimension, and a review of recent experience in the design and implementation of labour and social security policies.

59. A commitment made by IDB at the Ottawa ministerial meeting complements the decisions of the ministers of labour of the United States and Canada to provide resources aimed at strengthening technical cooperation. This is of particular importance in view of the mandate given to Governments at the Québec Summit to develop the work and employment agenda, and in the recognition it gives to the key role played by ILO in the Americas. The project will continue during the biennium 2002-2003, with a mandate to analyse the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process and to create a collaborative framework with ministries of labour and other relevant ministries and key international institutions.

60. Lastly, there was consensus that the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work must constitute the foundation of any future agreements that may be reached in the context of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. The declaration issued by labour ministers in Ottawa incorporated ideas such as the implementation of the decent work programme and the application of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, as central subjects of the plan of action to be developed in the 2001-2003 period.

10. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

61. *Cooperation between OAS and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Havana.* During 2000, OAS established contact with UNESCO/Havana, the Regional Office for Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean, for the first time, in view of the preparation of the First Hemispheric Forum of Ministers of Culture of the Americas. UNESCO sent an observer to the meeting of experts that was held in Vancouver, Canada, in March 2002.

62. The OAS Social Development Unit became a partner in the newly launched UNESCO Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity. Possible modalities of partnership were explored during the inter-agency coordination meeting organized by OAS in Washington, D.C. in April 2002. This meeting was attended by a representative of the *Centro Regional para el Fomento del Libro en America Latina y el Caribe*, on behalf of the UNESCO Sector for Culture and by UNESCO/Havana.

63. *Cooperation between OAS and UNESCO/Santiago.* The relationship between OAS and the Regional Bureau of Education of UNESCO/Santiago focuses on follow-up of Education for All. An inter-agency Education for All group was founded for Latin America and the Caribbean, and OAS prepared the first draft of proposals, objectives and terms of reference for the group, to be discussed with other participants.

64. *Follow-up of the Summit of the Americas.* UNESCO/Santiago participated in the August 2001 Education Inter-agency Meeting organized within the

framework of follow-up to the Summit of the Americas. The meeting dealt with the Education Action Plan of the Summit, and coincidences between its objectives and those of Education for All.

65. *Participation in the Major Project of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean.* OAS also participated at the seventh meeting of the Major Project of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Bolivia in March 2001, at which it made a presentation at the round table regarding international cooperation for Education for All follow-up.

66. *Cooperation in diversity education.* In 1998, specialists from UNESCO/Santiago helped representatives of the Special Needs Education Departments of the ministries of education of Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries to prepare a subregional project on human resources training. Its objective was to address education needs of all students within the framework of the education reforms of participating countries. The project, funded by OAS, will last three years (2001-2003). Participating countries — Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay — have requested assistance from UNESCO/Santiago specialists for project development. Training activities were carried out in 2001 for facilitators working with schools involved in the project, using UNESCO material translated into Spanish by UNESCO/Santiago.

11. Pan American Health Organization

67. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), which was created by the Second International Conference of the American States in 1902, is the regional specialized health agency of the Inter-American system, as well as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO). The mission of PAHO is "to cooperate technically with the member countries and to stimulate cooperation among them in order that, while maintaining a healthy environment and charting a course to sustainable human development, the peoples of the Americas may achieve health for all and by all". During 2001-2002, PAHO continued to work on an ongoing basis with member countries to promote pan-Americanism and equitable access to health care, through the major programming areas.

68. OAS plays a political role, since its function is to strengthen democracy, to advance human rights, to promote peace and security, and to expand trade and tackle complex problems caused by poverty, drugs and corruption. As such, the work of PAHO and OAS complement each other and there are some areas of mutual collaboration. PAHO briefs OAS ambassadors on the agenda of the yearly Executive Committee and issues of mutual concern, and provides an update on the work of PAHO. In 2001, OAS ambassadors visited PAHO for a second time to discuss the threat of biochemical terrorism to the region. In addition, it is customary for the Director or the Deputy Director of PAHO to attend the Permanent Council of OAS to give a presentation on the annual report.

69. PAHO works with the Office of Summit Follow-up at OAS in the coordination of efforts and activities to implement the mandates assigned by the Summits of the Americas. PAHO collaboration with the Inter-agency Working Group has resulted in joint initiatives, such as the inclusion of civil society into the Summit process, as well as in ensuring that reports on health mandates are disseminated and that health continues to occupy an important position on the Summit follow-up agenda. Meetings take place approximately once a month. At the Québec Summit, PAHO was given the mandate to develop activities and mobilize resources in the areas of health sector reform; communicable diseases; non-communicable diseases; and connectivity.

70. *Disaster preparedness.* Since 1999, when the OAS General Assembly established the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction, PAHO has presided over the Preparedness and Response Working Group, and has continued to support this initiative in the deliberations within the Continental Security Commission of the Permanent Council. The deliberations have served to keep this issue alive on the political agenda of the OAS. Also, PAHO has continued representing the Inter-American Committee in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. PAHO was also one of the organizers of the Hemispheric Conference on Risk Reduction that was held in Costa Rica in December 2001.

71. *Gender.* PAHO, through the Programme of Women, Health and Development participates on the Inter-American Commission of Women, with which it collaborates closely by participating in all executive

committee meetings, as well as in technical meetings in areas such as violence, trafficking and work. The organizations collaborated on the Symposium 2001: Gender-Based Violence, Health and Rights, together with other United Nations agencies and regional women's non-governmental organizations. This symposium led to landmark recommendations for mobilizing the health sector in addressing gender-based violence. In 2001 and 2002, a package on trafficking of women and girls was developed jointly.

72. *Drugs and illicit substances.* PAHO continues to collaborate with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission to promote the Substance Strategy for the Hemisphere, which addresses standards of care, education programmes, epidemiological surveillance and social communication.

73. *Workers' health.* The OAS Inter-American Council for Integral Development works closely with the PAHO Workers' Health Group. The Council functions as a political body and a system for promoting new forms of cooperation. It is planning an inter-American workshop with the Ministers of Labour on best practices of occupational health and safety. The Workers' Health Group has developed a comprehensive, intersectoral Regional Workers' Health Plan promoting equitable occupational health through a preventive approach to health. This effort requires teamwork and partnerships with key international players such as OAS. In October 2001, the twelfth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour was held in Ottawa as part of the follow-up process for the Summit of the Americas. The Ottawa Declaration and Plan of Action places workers' health and working conditions as top priorities. The Inter-American Commission of Women also works with the Workers' Health Group. The Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality constitutes a crucial venue through which the Workers' Health Group and the Unit of Women, Health and Development at PAHO have started to address the issues affecting working women in the Americas.

74. *Children.* PAHO/OAS collaboration in the area of children is centred on children's rights and child development. OAS, through its work in these areas, has been collaborating with organizations such as PAHO in the comprehensive development of the regional strategy on health promotion. The OAS has incorporated PAHO input into the OAS and the Inter-American Children's Institute web pages. The PAHO regional adviser on child health participated in the governmental panel, organized by OAS, in the World Congress of Initial Education, held in Venezuela in June 2002. PAHO and OAS are in the process of developing a joint proposal of work in specific areas of child health, utilizing an intersectoral approach.

12. The World Bank

75. Throughout 2001 and 2002, the World Bank and OAS continued to strengthen their cooperation and consultation at the senior managerial level, as well as at the operational level. Policy consultations included a number of discussions between the Secretary-General of OAS, César Gaviria, the President of the World Bank and the Vice-President for Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

76. The World Bank has been participating as an observer in the inter-agency working group for the follow-up of the Québec Summit mandates. In this area, the World Bank, in conjunction with IDB, has continued to provide technical assistance to the region's ministers of finance, in particular to strengthen the payments and security clearance systems. The World Bank has cooperated with OAS, bilateral donors and other agencies, such as IDB, in planning a Conference on Corporate Responsibilities.

13. International Civil Aviation Organization

77. In February 2002, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the General Secretariat of OAS to establish a framework for cooperation in the implementation of projects in OAS member States.

78. OAS and ICAO will cooperate in the areas of civil aviation development to identify projects and prepare feasibility and investment studies relating to aviation security, infrastructure development and the management of regulatory systems. An initial action plan includes the following activities:

(a) A project designed to strengthen the Sub-Regional Flight Safety Surveillance Authority and the Aviation Security Authority in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to assist the activities of the regional flight safety surveillance authority, and to regulate and control the application of airworthiness

and operation standards by the air transport operators registered in the region;

(b) Technical cooperation in training programmes for human resources development in the civil aviation of the Caribbean region in order to improve professional capabilities and skills for a more effective and efficient regional air transport sector;

(c) Strengthening of the Centre for Aeronautics Studies in Colombia by improving training, adding equipment and making improvements in its installations.

14. International Maritime Organization

79. *Facilitation of international maritime traffic.* Since 1999, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has been promoting the implementation of the International Convention on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, 1965. The project's activities, in which the Inter-American Committee on Ports participated, resulted in:

(a) Seven strategies (six national and one subregional);

(b) Nine seminars (six national and three subregional) involving the training of 178 officials representing customs, maritime and port authorities, as well as shipping interests;

(c) A regional course on the prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking on board ships.

80. *Port safety and security.* In follow-up to the above-mentioned project, a further programme on port safety and security was launched in 2000, which was executed by IMO in close cooperation with the Inter-American Committee on Ports. This programme resulted in:

(a) A manual on existing IMO standards relating to the ship/port interface, for distribution throughout the shipping and port communities of Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) A regional course for Latin America on the prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking on board ships (79 participants);

(c) A regional seminar for Caribbean States, on port safety and security.

81. *Maritime and port security.* Following the attacks on the United States of America of 11 September 2001, IMO began an urgent review of all its instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of illicit acts — including terrorism — that may affect the safety and security of shipping and port operations. This review will culminate in a diplomatic Maritime Security Conference, to be held in December 2002, which is to adopt mandatory requirements relating to the prevention and suppression of all such acts.

82. Parallel to the review process, IMO also launched a global programme of technical cooperation on maritime/port security, which aims to assist developing countries in putting in place appropriate security measures and infrastructure. This is essentially a capacity-building programme that seeks to raise maritime security awareness and to assist countries in implementing the security instruments already adopted by IMO, and to prepare them to implement effectively the new regulatory regime that is expected to emerge from the Maritime Security Conference of December 2002.